REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 2-4, 7-13, 15 and 17-19, and cancels claims 1, 5, 6, 14, 16, 20 and 21. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 2-4, 7-13, 15, and 17-19.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner objected to the oath/declaration under 37 CFR 1.52(c), noting that non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations have been made to the oath or declaration. This objection is traversed for the following reasons. On page 3 of the declaration filed on December 2, 2003, an alteration was made to the date of execution of one of the inventors. Specifically, a line was drawn through "10/31/03", which was replaced by "Oct. 31, 2003" (i.e, the same date).

Applicants submit that contrary to the Examiner's assertions, 37 CFR 1.52(c) does not require that this type of alteration be initialed and dated. Under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.52(c), any interlineations, erasure, cancellation or other alteration of the application papers filed must be made before the signing of any accompanying oath or declaration, and should be dated and initialed or signed by the applicant on the same sheet of paper. However, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to MPEP 602.05, which provides that the Office no longer checks the date of execution of the oath or declaration and the Office will no longer require a newly executed oath or declaration where the date of execution has been omitted. Accordingly, the date is not required. Furthermore, given that the date was replaced with the same date, but merely in a different format, Applicants submit that no change was made. Even further, the alterations intended to be encompassed by 37 CFR 1.52(c), are those alterations to the application papers made after signing the declaration. As such, alterations made to the declaration at

the time of signing are not required to be initialed and dated under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.52(c).

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 7-9, 16-17 and 20 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner. As indicated above, claims 16 and 20 were canceled. Therefore, the objection to claims 16 and 20 are rendered moot. Regarding the remaining claims 4, 7-9 and 17, Applicants have amended these claims to correct the informalities. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 1, 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. As indicated above, claim 1 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claim 1 is rendered moot. Regarding the remaining claims 13 and 18, this rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that claims 13 and 18, as now more clearly recited, are in compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 10-13, 16-18 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,185,054 to Ludwig et al. ("Ludwig"). As previously indicated, claims 1, 16 and 21 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claims 1, 16 and 21 is rendered moot. Regarding the remaining claims 2, 10-13, 17, and 18, this rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in

claims 2, 10-13, 17, and 18, are not taught or suggested by Ludwig, whether taken individually or in combination any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a communication system as recited, for example, in independent claim 13.

The present invention, as recited in claim 13, provides a communication system including a network, and at least two terminal units connected thereto. According to the present invention, each terminal unit includes session controlling means for controlling a session for enabling transmission/receiving of voice, image, and handwritten data to/from a remote terminal unit individually. Each terminal unit also includes display means for displaying the image and the handwritten data, wherein the image data and the handwritten data are overlapped and displayed on a display of the display means. Also included in each terminal unit is an image data transmission controlling means for controlling transmission of image data. Furthermore, each terminal unit includes an image data receiving controlling means for controlling receiving of image data, where each of the image data transmission controlling means and the image data receiving controlling means selects a name or contents of basic image data to transmit/receive the selected one to/from the remote terminal unit. The prior art does not disclose all of these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record,

particularly Ludwig, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Ludwig teaches participant display and selection in video conference calls. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ludwig of the communication system as recited in claim 13 of the present invention.

Ludwig discloses a teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants. The system has a plurality of video display devices, each having associated participant video capture capabilities and participant audio capture and reproduction capabilities. At least one communication path is provided for transmitting signals representing participant audio and video. A graphical rolodex can be displayed on a participant's video display device and includes a scrollable listing of entries of video-enabled potential participants. Also included is a quick dial list, which lists icons representing video-enabled potential participants copied from the graphical rolodex. The system is configured to allow an initiating participant to initiate collaboration by selecting at least one participant listed in at least one of the graphical rolodex and quick dial list, and to automatically establish one of a plurality of communication types, with a selected participant, upon a communication type being selected or by default when the participant is selected.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 13, includes where each of the image data transmission controlling means and the image data receiving controlling means selects a name or contents of basic image data to transmit/receive the selected one to/from the remote terminal unit. Ludwig does not disclose this feature. To support the assertion that Ludwig discloses this feature, the Examiner cites column 26, lines 24-42 and column 27, lines 13-35. However, neither the cited text nor any other portion of Ludwig teaches or suggests the claimed feature.

As described in the cited text, Ludwig discloses the implementation of data conferencing by certain Snapshot Sharing software provided at the collaborative multimedia workstation (CMW). This software permits a snapshot of a selected portion of a participant's CMW screen (such as a window) to be displayed on the CMW screens of other selected participants (whether or not those participants are also involved in videoconference). Any number of snapshots may be shared simultaneously. This not the same as the present invention, where each of the image data transmission controlling means and the image data receiving controlling means selects a name or contents of basic image data to transmit/receive the selected one to/from the remote terminal unit.

Therefore, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein each of the image data transmission controlling means and the image data receiving controlling means selects a name or contents of basic image data to transmit/receive the selected one to/from the remote terminal unit" as recited in claim 13.

Claims 2, 10-12, 17, and 18 are dependent on claim 3. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 2, 10-12, 17, and 18 are allowable at least for the same reasons provided in the discussion that follows regarding the rejection of independent claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Furthermore, Applicants submit that Ludwig does not disclose all the features of dependent claims 2, 10-12, 17, and 18. For example, with regard to claim 17, Applicants submit that Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the handwritten data controlling means denotes whether or not a notice is received at each chunk of data alternately between the two subject terminal units" as recited in dependent claim 17.

To support the assertion that Ludwig discloses this feature, the Examiner cites column 26, lines 61-67. However, neither the cited text, nor any other portion of Ludwig, teaches or suggests the claimed features. As described in the cited text, Ludwig describes where after the snapshot to be shared is displayed on all CMWs, each participant may telepoint on or annotate the snapshot, which actions and results are displayed on the CMW screens of all participants. This features of Ludwig is not the same as the claimed feature, where in the terminal unit, the handwritten data controlling means denotes whether or not a notice is received at each chunk of data alternately between the two subject terminal units.

Therefore, Ludwig does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as recited in claims 2, 10-13, 17, and 18. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 2, 10-13, 17, and 18 as being anticipated by Ludwig are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 2, 10-13, 17, and 18.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 3-9, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludwig in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,542,165 to Ohkado. As previously indicated, claims 5, 6 and 20 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claims 5, 6 and 20 is rendered moot. This rejection regarding the remaining claims 3, 4, 7-9, and 19 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claims 3, 4, 7-9, and 19, are not taught or suggested by Ludwig or Ohkado, whether taken individually or in combination with each other in the manner suggested by the

Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a communication system as recited, for example, in independent claim 3.

The present invention, as recited in claim 3, provides a communication system including a network, and at least two terminal units connected thereto. According to the present invention, each terminal unit includes session controlling means for controlling a session for enabling transmission/receiving of voice, image, and handwritten data to/from a remote terminal unit individually. Each terminal unit also includes display means for displaying the image and the handwritten data, where the image data and the handwritten data are overlapped and displayed on a display of the display means. Also included in each terminal unit is an image/handwritten data managing means for managing image/handwritten data, where the image/handwritten data managing means has a plurality of planes, and where the managing means displays basic image data on one of the plurality of planes, the one of the plurality of planes being an image data plane, and displays handwritten data currently handled in communication on a different plane, the different plane being a handwritten data plane, so that image and handwritten data are displayed so as to overlap each other by putting the different planes in layers. The prior art does not teach or suggest all of these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record.

Specifically, the features are not taught or suggested by either Ludwig or Ohkado, whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

As previously discussed, Ludwig teaches participant display and selection in video conference calls. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ludwig of the communication system as recited in claim 3 of the present invention.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 3, includes where the image/handwritten data managing means has a plurality of planes, and where the managing means displays basic image data on one of the plurality of planes, the one of the plurality of planes being an image data plane, and displays handwritten data currently handled in communication on a different plane, the different plane being a handwritten data plane, so that image and handwritten data are displayed so as to overlap each other by putting the different planes in layers. Ludwig does not disclose this feature, and the Examiner does not rely upon Ludwig for teaching this feature.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 7, includes where in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means can select either image or handwritten data or both of image and handwritten data as an object to be erased and erase a selected object from the display means. Ludwig does not disclose this feature. To support the assertion that Ludwig teaches this feature, the Examiner cites column 27, lines 3-12, and makes reference to the restoring of an original image by erasing all annotations (handwritten data). However, neither the cited text, nor any other portion of Ludwig teaches or suggests the claimed features. For example, as noted by the Examiner, Ludwig merely discloses erasing handwritten data. There is no teaching or suggestion of selecting both of image data

and handwritten data as an objected to be erased and erasing the selected object from the display means, as in the present invention.

Yet another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 8, and as similarly recited in claim 9, includes where in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means notifies the remote terminal unit of completion of the object erasure in return for the erasure information so that the remote terminal erases the object from its display means according to the notice. Ludwig does not disclose this feature. To support the assertion that Ludwig teaches this feature, the Examiner cites column 16, lines 24-42 and column 27, lines 13-30. However, neither the cited text nor any other portion of Ludwig, teaches or suggests the claimed feature. The Examiner notes that Ludwig discloses where when the content of an existing window is replaced with a modified image by one participant, this modified image would replace (erase) the content of the image on another participants share window, because the share window is shared among the participants. The Examiner considers the replacement as notice to replace (erase) the content of an existing window. Applicants disagree. Ludwig merely discloses sending erasing notification from a remote terminal that provides notice of erasure on the remote terminal's display. This is not the same as the present invention, where the erasing/information transmitting means notifies the remote terminal unit of completion of the object erasure in return for the erasure information so that the remote terminal erases the object from its display means according to the notice.

Still yet another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 19, includes where in the terminal unit, the display controlling means enable to automatically scroll both of the image data and the handwritten data to display both of the data on the display means of the remote terminal unit if the position pointed by

the handwritten data might not be displayed on the display means of the one terminal unit. Ludwig does not disclose this feature. For example, with reference to Figs. 36, 37 and 40, Share window 210 and 221 include scroll control, which allows information that cannot display entirely to be displayed in a share window. This is not the same as the present invention, where the display controlling means enable to automatically scroll both of the image data and the handwritten data to display both of the data on the display means of the remote terminal unit if the position pointed by the handwritten data might not be displayed on the display means of the one terminal unit.

Therefore, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein the image/handwritten data managing means has a plurality of planes, and wherein the managing means displays basic image data on one of the plurality of planes, the one of the plurality of planes being an image data plane, and displays handwritten data currently handled in communication on a different plane, the different plane being a handwritten data plane, so that image and handwritten data are displayed so as to overlap each other by putting the different planes in layers" as recited in claim 3.

Furthermore, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means can select either image or handwritten data or both of image and handwritten data as an object to be erased and erase a selected object from the display means" as recited in claim 7.

Further, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means notifies the remote terminal unit of completion of the object erasure in return for the erasure information so that the remote terminal erases the object from its display means according to the notice" as recited in claim 8, and as similarly recited in claim 9.

Even further, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the display controlling means enable to automatically scroll both of the image data and the handwritten data to display both of the data on the display means of the remote terminal unit if the position pointed by the handwritten data might not be displayed on the display means of the one terminal unit" as recited in claim 19.

The above noted deficiencies of Ludwig are not supplied by any of the other references of record, namely Ohkado, whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Therefore, combining the teachings of Ludwig and Ohkado in the manner suggested by the Examiner still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Ohkado teaches a system, apparatus and method of relating annotation data to an application window. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ohkado of the communication system as recited in claim 3 of the present invention.

Ohkado discloses a system, apparatus and method for generating a transparent window on an application window designated by an operator. An annotation is drawn in the transparent window depending on the kind of message generated on the transparent window. Ohkado's system can be used in collaborating with another terminal located in a remote location. There are a scheme in which a window of an application to be collaborated and a transparent window corresponding thereto are started in the both systems and only the data such as an image drawn on the transparent window is transmitted to the collaborating system and another scheme in which an application to be collaborated is run only on one of the systems and an image merging the annotation data is transmitted to the other system.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 3, includes where the

image/handwritten data managing means has a plurality of planes, and where the managing means displays basic image data on one of the plurality of planes, the one of the plurality of planes being an image data plane, and displays handwritten data currently handled in communication on a different plane, the different plane being a handwritten data plane, so that image and handwritten data are displayed so as to overlap each other by putting the different planes in layers. Ohkado does not disclose this feature. To support the assertion that Ohkado teaches a plurality of planes, the Examiner cites Fig. 5, and makes reference to the transparent window and subject application. However, neither the cited text nor any other portion of Ohkado teaches or suggests the claimed features.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 7, includes where in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means can select either image or handwritten data or both of image and handwritten data as an object to be erased and erase a selected object from the display means. Ohkado does not disclose this feature, and the Examiner does not rely upon Ohkado for teaching this feature.

Yet another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 8, and as similarly recited in claim 9, includes where in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means notifies the remote terminal unit of completion of the object erasure in return for the erasure information so that the remote terminal erases the object from its display means according to the notice. Ohkado does not disclose this feature, and the Examiner does not rely upon Ohkado for teaching this feature.

Still yet another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 19, includes where in the terminal unit, the display controlling means enable to

automatically scroll both of the image data and the handwritten data to display both of the data on the display means of the remote terminal unit if the position pointed by the handwritten data might not be displayed on the display means of the one terminal unit. Ohkado does not disclose this feature, and the Examiner does not rely upon Ohkado for teaching this feature.

Therefore, Ohkado fails to teach or suggest "wherein the image/handwritten data managing means has a plurality of planes, and wherein the managing means displays basic image data on one of the plurality of planes, the one of the plurality of planes being an image data plane, and displays handwritten data currently handled in communication on a different plane, the different plane being a handwritten data plane, so that image and handwritten data are displayed so as to overlap each other by putting the different planes in layers" as recited in claim 3.

Furthermore, Ohkado fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means can select either image or handwritten data or both of image and handwritten data as an object to be erased and erase a selected object from the display means" as recited in claim 7.

Further, Ohkado fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the erasing/information transmitting means notifies the remote terminal unit of completion of the object erasure in return for the erasure information so that the remote terminal erases the object from its display means according to the notice" as recited in claim 8, and as similarly recited in claim 9.

Even further, Ohkado fails to teach or suggest "wherein in the terminal unit, the display controlling means enable to automatically scroll both of the image data and the handwritten data to display both of the data on the display means of the

remote terminal unit if the position pointed by the handwritten data might not be displayed on the display means of the one terminal unit" as recited in claim 19.

Both Ludwig and Ohkado suffer from the same deficiencies, relative to the features of the present invention, as recited in the claims. Therefore, combining the teachings of Ludwig and Ohkado in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 3, 4, 7-9, and 19 as being unpatentable over Ludwig in view of Ohkado are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 3, 4, 7-9, and 19.

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ludwig in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,624,827 to Hwang et al. ("Hwang"). As previously indicated, claim 14 was canceled. Therefore, this rejection regarding claim 14 is rendered moot. This rejection regarding the remaining claim 15 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claim 15, are not taught or suggested by Ludwig or Hwang, whether taken individually or in combination with each other in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more

clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a communication system as recited, for example, in independent claim 15.

The present invention, as recited in claim 15, provides a communication system including a network, and at least two terminal units connected thereto. Each terminal unit includes session controlling means for controlling a session for enabling transmission/receiving of voice, image, and handwritten data to/from a remote terminal unit individually. Each terminal unit also includes display means for displaying said image and said handwritten data, where said image data and said handwritten data are overlapped and displayed on a display of said display means. Each terminal unit further includes a handwritten data inputting means for obtaining handwritten data input by a user, where the handwritten data inputting means, by one of two terminal units' start of transmitting/receiving handwritten data to/from the other, starts effecting exclusive control so that one terminal unit is allowed to input/transmit handwritten data in contrast the other terminal unit is not allowed. The prior art does not teach or suggest all of these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. Specifically, the features are not taught or suggested by either Ludwig or Hwang, whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

As previously discussed, Ludwig teaches participant display and selection in video conference calls. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Ludwig of the communication system as recited in claim 15 of the present invention.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 15, includes wherein the handwritten data inputting means, by one of two terminal units' start of transmitting/receiving handwritten data to/from the other, starts effecting exclusive

control so that one terminal unit is allowed to input/transmit handwritten data in contrast the other terminal unit is not allowed. Ludwig does not disclose this feature, and the Examiner does not rely upon Ludwig for teaching this feature.

Therefore, Ludwig fails to teach or suggest "wherein the handwritten data inputting means, by one of two terminal units' start of transmitting/receiving handwritten data to/from the other, starts effecting exclusive control so that one terminal unit is allowed to input/transmit handwritten data in contrast the other terminal unit is not allowed" as recited in claim 15.

The above noted deficiencies of Ludwig are not supplied by any of the other references of record, namely Hwang, whether taken individually or in combination with each other. Therefore, combining the teachings of Ludwig and Hwang in the manner suggested by the Examiner still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Hwang teaches an apparatus and method for locking or prohibiting access to a designated object displayed on shared electronic whiteboard. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Hwang of the communication system as recited in claim 15 of the present invention.

Hwang discloses a method for locking or prohibiting an access to at least one object in an electronic conferencing system. The method includes the steps of: a) initiating an electronic conference in the conference initiator system having an electronic whiteboard, the electronic whiteboard containing at least one object; b) participating conference participant systems in the electronic conference, thereby sharing the electronic whiteboard with the conference initiator system; c) sending a lock request corresponding to the object from a conference participant system to the conference initiator system in order to obtain the priority over the access to the

object corresponding to the lock request from the conference initiator system or prohibit the access to the object performed by another conference participant system not having the priority; and d) giving a priority over an access to the object to the conference participant system according to a sequence of lock requests in response to the lock request.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 15, includes wherein the handwritten data inputting means, by one of two terminal units' start of transmitting/receiving handwritten data to/from the other, starts effecting exclusive control so that one terminal unit is allowed to input/transmit handwritten data in contrast the other terminal unit is not allowed. Hwang does not disclose this feature. Unlike the present invention, Hwang does not teach or suggest using start of transmitting/receiving handwritten data as a trigger.

Therefore, Hwang fails to teach or suggest "wherein the handwritten data inputting means, by one of two terminal units' start of transmitting/receiving handwritten data to/from the other, starts effecting exclusive control so that one terminal unit is allowed to input/transmit handwritten data in contrast the other terminal unit is not allowed" as recited in claim 15.

Both Ludwig and Hwang suffer from the same deficiencies, relative to the features of the present invention, as recited in the claims. Therefore, combining the teachings of Ludwig and Hwang in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 15 as being unpatentable over Ludwig in view of Hwang are respectfully requested.

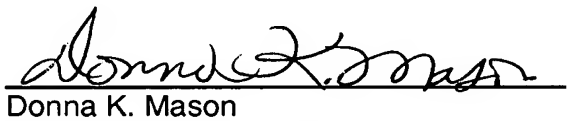
The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claim 15.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 7-13, 15, and 17-19 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 2-4, 7-13, 15, and 17-19 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing Attorney Docket No. 501.42868X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



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